

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image processing apparatus comprising:

an image storage unit configured to store a plurality of types of image data in a first data format that is compressed;

a data format converter configured to convert the first data format of the image data to a second data format being a general data format which can be read by a general data format converter including general image processing functions; and

a communicator including

a communication interface configured to transmit the image data of the first data format together with the image data of the second data format as reference image data for the image data of the first data format to an external device including the general data format converter.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data format converter comprises:

an expandor configured to expand the image data stored in the image storage unit;

a multinary unit configured to convert image data expanded of low bits to multinary image data; and

a data compressor configured to compress the multinary image data into a multinary general compression format.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data format converter comprises:

an expandor configured to expand the image data stored in the image storage unit;

a binary unit configured to convert the image data expanded, which is monochrome multinary image data, to binary image data; and

a data compressor configured to compress the binary image data in a binary general compression format.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data format converter comprises:

a color space converter configured to convert a color space of the image data stored in the image storage unit, which is color multinary image data, to a general color space.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data format converter comprises:

at least one resolution converter of a multinary resolution converter configured to perform resolution conversion on the image data stored in the image storage unit, which is multinary image data; and

a binary resolution converter configured to perform resolution conversion on binary image data.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The image processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the at least one resolution converter is configured to perform resolution conversion on image data at a conversion rate such that resolution of the image data as a base of conversion and a resolution after the conversion fall into a predetermined range.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an imaging unit configured to form an image on a recording medium based on the image data stored in the image storage unit, wherein a printing function is combined with the imaging unit to adapt the first data format of the image data stored in the image storage unit to a data format used in the imaging unit.